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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/672,009	09/26/2003	Laurent Schaller	P0022022.00	7654
77218 7590 10/29/2008 Medtronic CardioVascular 7000 Central Avenue Minneapolis, MN 54432			EXAMINER NGUYEN, TUAN VAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/29/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/672,009

Applicant(s)

SCHALLER ET AL.

Examiner

TUAN V. NGUYEN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on September 26, 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-40 are pending in this present application.
2. In previous Office action, claims 1-33 were examined and rejected and claims 34-40 have been withdrawn.
3. This Office action is in response to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request For Review filed on March 25, 2008. A conference was held on May 22, 2008 and the decision was the previous rejection is withdrawn and a new Office action will be mailed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

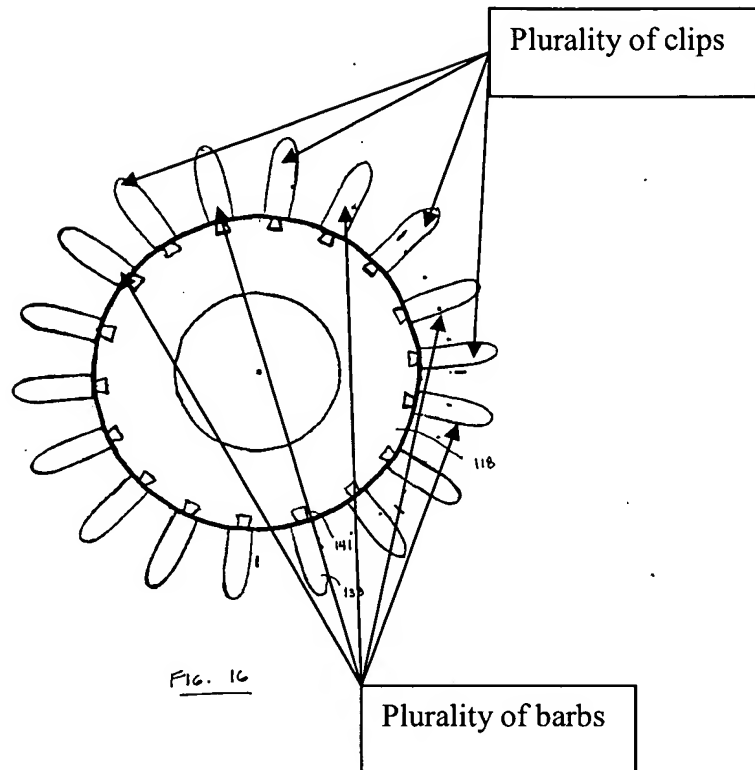
4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1, 2, 6/1, 6/2, 7/1, 7/2, 8, 14/8, 15/8, 16/8, 17-28 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Edoga et al. (US 7335212).**
6. Edoga discloses (Figs. 2-7, and 16, col. 3, line 50 to col. 4, line 65 and col. 6, lines 14-40) an anastomosis device comprising: a support structure, which is the tubular structure that graft 110 is attached onto; a plurality of shape memory self-closing clips 134, each clip being releasably coupled to the first plurality of members 132

and the support structure 101; a trigger 108 or a first plunger 108 movably coupled to the support structure, wherein the first plunger 108 includes plurality of pusher 138, each pusher coupled to a clip for simultaneously deployment of the clips; plurality of barbs 140 being coupled to the support structure, the barbs being separate and from the clips and each barbs slidably disposed in one second plurality of paths 141; and a second plunger 118 movably coupled to the support structure 101 and the second plunger being coupled to the proximal end of each barb 140 for simultaneously extending the barbs between a first position where they extend from the support structure (Fig. 5) and a second position where they are retracted into the support structure (Fig. 4).



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
9. **Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. (U.S. 6,709,442) in view of Loshakove (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0087985).**
10. Miller discloses (see Figs. 5A-5F and 13-34) anastomosis device 50, 170 comprising: a support structure 51, 57 or 226, 218, 220; one or plurality of self-closing clip 10, 236 slidably and disposed in tube 51 or plurality of tube 230 (or first plurality of member), wherein the clips is shape memory clip and the clips assume a shape that automatically applies to the layers of tissue an appropriate hemostatic compression which is relatively independent of tissue thickness (see col. 3, lines 54-60), each clip being releasably coupled to said support structure by plunger 52, 238; a pusher, 60, 210 is connected to plunger 52, 238; and the clips can be deployed simultaneously (see col. 7, line 46 to col. 8, line 40 and col. 12, line 50 to col. 13, line 25). Miller discloses (Figs. 13-32) the device also includes a plurality of pivot arms 172 for supporting the lips of the anastomosis vessels during the deployment of the fasteners (col. 11, lines 1-43). Miller discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the device further includes a plurality of barbs,

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each barb being coupled to the support structure and the barbs being separate from the clips, which are ejectable from the support structure independently of the barbs.

11. However, Loshakove discloses (Figs. 5A-5F) an anastomosis device comprising, among other things, a plurality of puller 512 for pulling the lips of the incision of the blood vessel into a desired location relative to another lip for effecting anastomosis connection ([0006], [0095]-[0100]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the pivoting arms 172 of Miller device with the pullers as disclosed by Loshakove in order to improve the effectiveness and safety of Miller device.
12. Referring to claim 13, Miller disclosed that Nitinol is a "shape memory alloy" that capable of having strain ratio of up to 8% without experiencing permanent deformation (col. 5, lines 60-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the puller from Nitinol so that it too would have this same advantage.

Conclusion

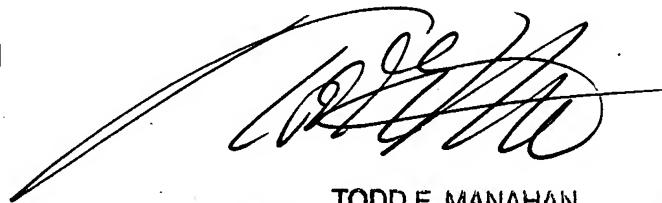
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN V. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-5962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/T. V. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Manahan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

TODD E. MANAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER